

The Santa Barbara Association of REALTORS®

“Surfin’ Santa Barbara” a Success!

By JEANETTE CASILLAS/ CASA

THE ISLANDS OF HAWAII WERE BROUGHT TO SANTA BARBARA,

as the Santa Barbara Association of REALTORS® gathered for their 22nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser, “Surfin’ Santa Barbara.” The night filled with Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and leis was held at the Maritime Museum last month to benefit the Hospice of Santa Barbara, I Have a Friend® Program.

“The I Have a Friend® is a really great compassionate program which is definitely in need,” shared Alyson Spann,



Jon and Cynthia Mahoney

SBAOR President. “Despite the economic situation the REALTORS® came forth to support the cause. It was great to see how supportive the real estate community is in a time of need.”

All net proceeds will directly benefit the children who have recently lost a parent or sibling. The I Have a Friend® program was created after a Hospice of Santa Barbara Social Worker met with a child who lost their father, and asked, “Will I ever be normal?” I Have a Friend® matches a child who

has recently lost a parent or sibling with an adult who experienced a similar loss in their childhood. The mentors are living proof for these children, that despite their loss, they too can grow to be successful adults.

“About 200 attendees enjoyed the fun filled evening,” shared Ali Barker, the Santa Barbara Association of REALTORS® Event Planner. “Steve Epstein was the

spectacular MC; he kept the night rocking away!”

Guests enjoyed a Hawaiian Style Buffet by Cliffs & Company Catering, tables filled with treats from Sugar Bliss Sweets, music and dancing with DJ Tru, and gaming with Lady Luck Casino.

Live auction items included a getaway to Isle Mujeres, Mexico, and a Firewire Surfboard with surf lessons from a local professional.

“The Association likes to support non-profits that help children and families. This event was another example of that,” noted Spann.

Last week Spann presented a check to the Hospice of Santa Barbara’s Executive Director, Steve Jacobsen and Program Manager, Joy Janssen for the amount of \$6,620.

The SBAOR Events Committee included: Jon Mahoney, Stan Tabler, Ann Johnson, Shane Amburn,



Alyson Spann, 2009 SBAOR President; Joy Janssen, Program Manager, Children and Family Services of Hospice of SB, Inc.; and Steve Jacobsen Executive Director of Hospice of SB, Inc.

Cristina Calderon, Leigh Cashman, Marco Farrell, Amanda Grijalva, Marisa Laurel Smith, Donna Matsumura, Kris Randolph, and Ali Barker. The Committee would also like to recognize Joy Janssen Program Manager, Children and Family Services and Amanda Kastelic, Community relations and Education Coordinator of The Hospice of Santa Barbara for their efforts at the events success.

Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. is a volunteer hospice that provides care to anyone experiencing the impact of life-threatening illness or grieving the death of a loved one.

Event sponsors included Community West Bank and their staff who worked the bank all night long and Pacific Beverage.

For more information call 963-3787 or visit www.sbaor.com.



Chase Enright and Ali Barker



Cristina Calderon with Lady Luck Casinos Dealer